

REMARKS

Reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims, in view of the forgoing amendments and the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

Prior to this Amendment, claims 1-10 were pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 2 and 7 are amended. Claims 3-5 and 8-10 remain unchanged. No claims have been newly added. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment, claims 2-5 and 7-10 will remain pending.

In the pending Office Action, claims 1 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Miyashita (US 6,226,536; hereafter "Miyashita"). Claims 2 and 7 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 2-5 and 7-10 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the objection raised by the Examiner and all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully respond to the rejection and objections as presented below.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Miyashita. Claims 1 and 6 have been canceled and, thus, the rejection is rendered moot.

II. Claim Objections

In the Office Action, claims 2 and 7 were objected to because of informalities. The Office Action specifically pointed out that "... which the first and second terminals" is unclear and should be "... which of the first and second terminals." Claims 2 and 7 are amended to address this problem. Thus, the objection should respectfully be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 2-5 and 7-10 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including the objection raised by the Examiner, and including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten claims 2-5 and 7-10 in independent form

including the objection raised by the Examiner and all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, the objection should respectfully be withdrawn.

Since claims 2 and 7 now include all of the limitations formerly presented in claims 1 and 6, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 and 7 have not been modified from their original form. By virtue of their dependency from claims 1 and 6, all of the elements now presented by claims 2 and 7 were previously presented by these claims. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 and 7, and the claims that depend therefrom, have not been narrowed by the amendments presented herein. As a result, the Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are entitled to their broadest reasonable interpretation, both literally and under the doctrine of equivalents, as if they had not been amended.

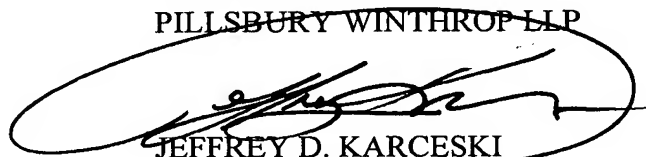
III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner reconsider the rejection and objections of the claims, withdraw the rejection and objections, and pass this application quickly to issue.

If there are any fees due for entry of this submission that are not otherwise accounted for, the Applicant asks that any such fees be charged to our Deposit Account No. 03-3975, with reference to Order No. 008312/0290637.

Respectfully submitted,

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